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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : AmEmbassy, Luxembourg

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

224
DESP. NO.

June 15, 1956

DATE

REF : EMBTEL 154, June 11, 1956

18 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
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SUBJECT:

Visit to Luxembourg of Soviet Parliamentary Delegation

A delegation from the Supreme Soviet began a four day visit to Luxembourg on June 14. Attached is a list of names of the persons included in the delegation which will be accompanied by the First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, Brussels, Nicolai Fedorow.

Also attached is a newspaper clipping showing the entertainment which has been arranged in Luxembourg for the delegation.

Editorial Opinion

To date, editorial comment has appeared in the Luxembourger Wort (Christian Socialist) and the Letzeberger Journal (Liberal), both of which, while somewhat more restrained in tone than usual, were nevertheless cynical. The Wort declared that nothing has changed in Russia, and went on to say that peaceful co-existence requires (on the part of Soviet Russia) (1) a positive attitude regarding German unification, (2) political independence for the "peoples" democracies, (3) ceasing of war-mongering in other regions of the world, (4) return of the last prisoners of war. "Without this", the Wort states, "Luxembourgers will also have to remain distrustful and on the alert against the Soviet Union."

The Journal states that the Russian visitors can see that Luxembourg has no secrets, no closed zones, that they can read capitalist and communist newspapers, and that while Luxembourg "prefers Khrushchev's smile to Stalin's terror ~~enough~~, is not enough".

Comment

It is recalled that Prime (and Foreign) Minister Bech has several times informed us in the past that visits to Russia of Western leaders, and the visits of the Russians abroad serve to undermine resistance on the part of the West to the Soviet new look. It is also recalled that no responsible members of the

-Luxembourg-

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Luxembourg Government attended, for instance, the movie which was made on the occasion of the visit to Russia of a delegation of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies (see Despatch no. 127 dated February 23, 1956). Several months ago it could be expected that when the Soviet delegation came to Luxembourg they would be treated correctly but coldly and that leaders of the local government would not attend receptions given in their honor.

The receptions planned in Luxembourg for the Russians appear to demonstrate the accuracy of Foreign Minister Bech's warning of a relaxation of resistance brought about by the Soviet new look. Of all the countries of Europe which are basically Catholic in religion, Luxembourg is at the top of the list. It is safe to say that a year ago a delegation of the Supreme Soviet would not have met with a similar reception which will be theirs this week.

Prime Minister Bech had originally decided not to attend the dinner offered by the Luxembourg Government, but was urged to by Emil Reuter, President of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies, while Ambassador Buchanan was in Mr. Bech's office. Mr. Bech told Ambassador Buchanan that he was unhappy over the visit, that he was unhappy that the visit to Russia was made in the first instance by a Luxembourg parliamentary delegation.

He stated that Luxembourg's reception for the Communists follows the pattern set by Belgium when that country was visited by a Soviet delegation. It should be noted that Mr. Reuter, President of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies, is a devout Catholic who has a detestation of communism, (he is Luxembourg Ambassador to the Vatican), and his personal appeal to Mr. Bech to attend the dinner given for the Soviet visitors suggests that Luxembourg has adopted the softer attitude.

For the Ambassador:


William H. Christensen
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cc AmEmbassy Moscow

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